mental talks held in October, 1988 and January, 1989, it was agreed in principle that Air India and Aeroflot will operate joints services to third-world countries which include a service to Harare. Mutually acceptable commercial arrangements will have to be worked out at airlines level.

Widening of Vijayawada Chilakaluripet Section of National Highway No. 5

*291. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for conversion of National Highway No. 5 from two lane to four lane between Vijayawada and Chilakaluripet has been finalised; if so, what is the present stage of its implementation, and whether the survey has been completed; if so, what is the target date to complete the acquisition of land, and the estimated cost of this project;

(b) whether there is any external aid for the project; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The work of survey investigations and project preparation has been taken up. The land acquisition estimate has been received from the State Govt. The project is estimated to cost about Rs. 102 crores.

(b) and (c) No external aid has been finalised for the project.

Relief Supplies from India to Afghanistan

*292. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to send relief supplies to Afghanistan by its own planes;

(b) whether Government have also consulted other leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation in this regard; and

(c) if so, what is their reaction and by when Government propose despatching relief supplies to Kabul?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) In principle, Government would not object to sending humanitarian relief supplies either directly or through the UN, depending upon the actual situation, and logistical considerations.

(b) and (c) India would be willing to support, in this regard, any initiative the NAM or the UNSG might take, for helping with relief supplies to Afghanistan. We have offered to assist UNSG's efforts in this regard. His response to our offer is awaited.

Completion of Pali-Bid-Nagar Rail Line

*293. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pali-Nagar rail line *via* Bid on South Central Railway has been completed;

(b) if not, what portion is still under construction;

(c) what is the total amount spent on the project so far; and

(d) by when the said line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The survey for a new BG line from Ahmednagar to Parli *via* Bir is still in progress.

(b) to (d) Do not arise at this stage.